Statement

Inclusion of communities from Assam in **ST** *list.*

Following communities of Assam have been demanding their inclusion in ST list of Assam:—

(a) **Plain Areas:-**

1. Koch-Rajbongshi
2. Chutia
3. Tai Ahom
4. Moran
5. Matak
6. Tea and Ex-Tea Garden communities
7. Hajong
8. Abor
9. Aka
10. Apatani
11. Rafla
12. Galong
13. Khampti
14. Khowa
15. Mishmi
16. Momba
17. Any Naga Tribes
18. Sherdukpen
19. Simpho and their sub-tribes
20. Madahi
21. Garo
22. Khasi
23. Hmar
24. Dimasa
25. Mikir to Karbi (Change in name).

(b) Autonomous Districts:—

1. Tiwas
2. Boro-Kashari
3. Deori
4. Lalung
5. Miri
6. Mech
7. Rabha, Rave

(c) **Whole of the State:-**

1. Zeimei, Liangmei, Rongmei, Pumei
2. Sarania Kochari
3. Halam
4. Dhanaka
5. Khamtis, Phakes, Aitons, Khamyangs, Turuvs.
6. Tamang

Study on drug abuse in North east region

7303. SHRIMATI BASANTI SHARMA. Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any study with regard to the drug addiction among the students of various universities particularly in the North East region;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to curb drug menace among the students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Welfare sponsored a multi centred study on student population in 1975-76 and a repeat study after a decade (1985-86) to assess the prevalence of drug abuse among University students. The 1975-76 study covered seven centres which included Bombay, Delhi Hyderabad, Jabalpur, Jaipur, Madras

and Varanasi. In he study of 1985-86, two more centres namely Bangalore and Calcutta, were added. No specific study in North East has been undertaken on students.

(b) The major indings of these two studies are:—

(i) The prevalence of abuse of substances especially alcohol, tobacco and painkillers was most common.

(ii) The 1985-86 study indicated that legally prohibited drug abuse was around 2 per cent. This was in contrast to the finding of 1975-76 study which showed that use of such drugs was negligible.

(iii) Drug abuse was more common among boys than girls Girls mainly used pain-killers and the use of illicit drugs among girls was practically negligible.

(iv) Drug abuse was practically among students with urban background esepcially those studying in Central, Public, or convent schools, hailing from nuclear families and residents of college hostels or staying away from their families.

(v) Causes for drug abuse were mainly psychological such as satisfying curiosity, relieving tension, and also peer pressure.

(c) A Scheme of Assistance to voluntary organisations for prohibition and drug abuse is being implemented by this Ministry to provide financial assistance to voluntary organisations for running of counselling deaddiction and after care centres for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abuse and alcoholism. Under this scheme 90 per cent of the approved annual expenditure is provided by this Ministry and the remaining 10 per cent is borne by the volnutary organisations themselves. Universities/Institutes of Social Work/Institutes of Higher Learning are, however, provided 100 per cent grant under the scheme. At present 152 counselling 104 deaddiction and 15 after care centres are functioning.

Recognisation of Tai-shyam Community in Assam

7304. SHRI BHADRESWAR GOHAIN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the Tai-Shyam Community in Assam;

(b) what is their Constitutional status in the State;

(c) whether Government are also aware that they are not recognised as any class in Assam; and

(d) whether Government propose to settle this ambiguity once for all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Tai-Shyam is a group of Communities consisting of Ahom, Aiton, Chutiya, Khamti, Man, Nora, Phakial Turung etc. Out of these Man (Tai-speaking) is notified as Scheduled Tribe in autonomous districts of Assam. Ahom and Chutiya have been specified as other Backward Classes. The rest of the communities are neither in Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe list nor in OBC list. Representations have however, been received from Khamti, Phakial, Aitons and Turungs communities for their inclusion in Scheduled Tribe list of Assam. The comments of the State Government as required under article 342 of the Constitution have been called for after receipt of which same would be placed before the Advisory Committee on the revision of SC/ST list Constiuted by Government on 13th October, 1993 for their examination.